

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system for mimicking a peripheral device for use within the data processing system, wherein the peripheral device may be ~~connected to~~ disconnected from a bus, the method comprising:
  - detecting a signal on the bus indicating a request to access the peripheral device;
  - monitoring the bus for a response by the peripheral device; and
  - sending a mimicked response to the signal when a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the peripheral device.
2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.
3. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a mimicked response includes sending a first signal that indicates a presence of the peripheral device being mimicked on the bus.
4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the first signal is a busy signal.
5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of sending a mimicked response further includes sending a second signal in response to the request.
6. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the second signal is a not ready signal.
7. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the second signal is a pre-selected data sequence.
8. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - detecting a signal on the bus indicating a request to access a second device;
  - monitoring the bus for a response by second device; and

sending a response to the signal after a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the second device.

9. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is absent from the data processing system.

10. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is connected to the bus and unable to respond to the request within the selected period of time.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the mimicked response is a pre-set response.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the mimicked response is a response acquired by monitoring the bus for responses made by the peripheral device when the device is present on the bus.

13. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting, monitoring, and sending steps are implemented in a state machine.

14. (Currently Amended): A method for emulating a peripheral device during initialization of an operating system, wherein the peripheral device is configured for use within a data processing system and may be ~~attached to~~ disconnected from a bus within the data processing system, the method comprising:

monitoring the bus for a signal selecting the peripheral device for an input/output transaction during initialization of the operating system;

monitoring the bus for a response by the peripheral device in response to detecting the signal selecting the device; and

sending a mimicked response to the signal after a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the peripheral device, wherein the mimicked response

indicates to the operating system that the peripheral device is present within the data processing system.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of sending a mimicked response includes sending a signal that indicates a presence of the peripheral device being emulated on the bus.

17. (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the first signal is a busy signal.

18. (Currently Amended): A data processing system comprising:

a bus;

detection means for detecting a signal on the bus indicating a request to access a peripheral device;

monitoring means for monitoring the bus for a response by the peripheral device;  
and

transmission means for sending a response to the signal after a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the peripheral device.

19. (Original): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

20. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein transmission means includes means for sending a first signal that indicates a presence of the peripheral device.

21. (Original): The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the first signal is a busy signal.

22. (Original): The data processing system of claim 20, wherein the transmission means further includes means for sending a second signal to respond to the request.

23. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the second signal is a not ready signal.

24. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the second signal is a preselected data sequence.

25. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the peripheral device is absent from the data processing system.

26. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the peripheral device is unable to respond to the request.

27. (Previously Presented): A data processing system comprising:

a bus;

a plurality of devices connected to the bus; and

a mimic device connected to the bus, wherein the mimic device monitors the bus for a signal selecting a selected device within the plurality of devices for an input/output transaction during initialization of an operating system within the data processing system, monitors the bus for a response by the selected device in response to detecting the signal selecting the device, and sends a response to the signal a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the selected device, wherein the response indicates to the operating system that the selected device is present within the data processing system.

28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

29. (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the signal is a busy signal.

30. (Currently Amended): A data processing system comprising:

a bus;

a plurality of devices attached to the bus; and

a mimic device attached to the bus, wherein the mimic device has a plurality of modes of operation including:

a first mode of operation in which the mimic device monitors the bus for a request to a selected device within the plurality of devices;

a second mode of operation, responsive to detecting the request, in which the mimic device monitors the bus for a response from the selected device; and

a third mode of operation, responsive to an absence of a response from the selected device within a period of time, in which the mimic device sends a mimicked response to the request onto the bus.

31. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a busy signal onto the bus.

32. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a not ready signal onto the bus.

33. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a second signal onto the bus.

34. (Original): The data processing system claim 30, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

35. (Currently Amended): A computer program product for use with a data processing system for mimicking a peripheral device, a computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium;

first instructions for detecting a signal on the bus indicating a request to access a peripheral device;

second instructions for monitoring the bus for a response by the peripheral device;  
and

third instructions for sending a response to the signal after a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the peripheral device, wherein the instructions are embodied within the computer usable medium.

36. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 35, wherein third instructions includes instructions for sending a first signal that indicates a presence of the peripheral device.

37. (Original): The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the first signal is a busy signal.

38. (Original): The computer program product of claim 36, wherein third instructions further includes instructions for sending a second signal in response to the request.

39. (Original): The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the second signal is a not ready signal.

40. (Original): The computer program products of claim 38, wherein the second signal is a preselected data sequence.

41. (Currently Amended): A method in a data processing system for mimicking a peripheral device for use within the data processing system, wherein the peripheral device may be ~~connected to~~ disconnected from a bus, the method comprising:

detecting an input/output (I/O) signal on the bus indicating a request to access the peripheral device;

ascertaining that the peripheral device being requested is to be mimicked;

monitoring the bus for a response by the peripheral device; and

mimicking the peripheral device by sending a mimicked response to the signal when a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the peripheral device.

42. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 41, wherein the mimicked response includes pre-stored data according to a bus protocol.

43. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 41, wherein ascertaining that the peripheral device being requested is to be mimicked~~[[;]]~~ further comprises starting a timer.

44. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 41, wherein the input/output (I/O) signal is a first input/output (I/O), the peripheral device is a first device and the response is a first response, the method further comprises:

detecting a second input/output (I/O) signal on the bus indicating a request to access a second device;

ascertaining that the second device being requested is to be mimicked;

monitoring the bus for a seconds response by the device; and

mimicking the second device by sending a second response to the signal when a selected period of time passes without a second response being made by the second device.

45. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 41 further comprises:

ascertaining that no further transacting is necessary; and

releasing the bus.